

Message Text

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67

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02 SSM-03

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 MC-02

ACDA-07 /096 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

NEA/ARN - MR.DRAPED

NEA/AFN - MS. WEISLOGEL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

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AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CINCEUR

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - OCTOBER 21

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR OCTOBER 21,
1976:

SPOKESMAN: TOMORROW AT 12:30, THE SECRETARY AND THE
TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WILL SIGN THE AGREED MINUTES
OF THE THREE-DAY MEETING OF THE U.S.-TUNISIAN JOINT
COMMISSION. THE MEETING WILL CONCLUDE TODAY. THE
SIGNING OF THE MINUTES WAS GOING TO TAKE PLACE TODAY
BUT THE TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WAS NOT ABLE TO BE HERE
UNTIL TOMORROW.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING EVENTS ALONG
THE ISRAELI-LEBANESE BORDER? SPECIFICALLY WHETHER ISRAELI
TROOPS, MILITARY HARDWARE, ETC., CROSSING INTO LEBANON ARE
PARTICIPATING IN SOME OF THE (INAUDIBLE)?

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A. I DO NOT KNOW. I HAVE READ THAT SOME OF THE PRESS,
BUT I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING ON IT. I AM NOT AWARE THAT WE
HAVE ANYTHING ON IT.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT ABOUT A USIA CORRESPONDENT
MEETING WITH THE PLO AND TRYING TO GET SOME SENTIMENTS
FROM THEM? HOW DOES THAT WORK OUT?

A. THAT STORY IS A WEEK OR SO OLD, I THINK.

MY RECOLLECTION OF THAT IS THAT OUR AMBASSADOR IN ISRAEL SAID THAT THE VOA CORRESPONDENT COULD NOT, OR SHOULD NOT, CONTACT ANY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PLO. HIS DECISION IS CONSISTENT WITH OUR POLICY OF NOT HAVING ANY CONTACTS WITH THE PLO.

Q. WELL YES, THAT IS ONE PART OF IT.

THE OTHER PART IS: HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT OR SOME AGENCY OF GOVERNMENT WITH AUTHORITY OVER FOREIGN AFFAIRS NOTIFIED USIA THAT THIS IS NOT PERMISSIBLE?

A. WELL YES, AND ON BACKGROUND, I THINK IT WAS AN INDIVIDUAL DECISION MADE IN THE FIELD.

THERE IS NO QUESTION IN THE AGENCY HERE IN WASHINGTON. WE BOTH AGREE ON THE POSITION WE TOOK. THERE WAS NO DISAGREEMENT IN WASHINGTON. END BACKGROUND.

Q. NO DISAGREEMENT IN WASHINGTON -- EXCEPT BY THE NEWS EDITOR OF VOA --

Q. AS A MATTER OF CURIOSITY, ARE THERE OTHER GROUPS THAT VOA REPORTERS ARE SUPPOSED NEVER TO APPROACH FOR NEWS -- OR IS THE PLO THE ONLY ONE IN THAT PARTICULAR INDEX?

A. USIA IS SUBJECT TO GENERAL U.S. FOREIGN POLICY GUIDELINES. I CANNOT THINK OF AN ANALOGOUS ORGANIZATION, SUCH AS THE PLO, AT THE MOMENT.

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Q. ANOTHER QUESTION ON THE PLO IS: WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THAT INVESTIGATION ABOUT THE PLO GATHERING FUNDS FOR USE-- FOR WHATEVER USE THEY ARE MAKING OF IT?

A. LET ME CHECK INTO THE STATUS OF THAT.

Q. THIS HAS BEEN AN OLD STORY, NOW.

A. YES, I REMEMBER THE STORY. LET ME CHECK INTO THAT AND

SEE IF WE CAN POST SOMETHING ON IT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIEFING MATERIALS, PRESS CONFERENCES, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE261313
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EOJONES:RGH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760395-1123
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761027/aaaaawsq.tel
Line Count: 165
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - OCTOBER 21 FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR OCT
TAGS: PFOR, XF, PLO, VOA, USTSJC
To: BEIRUT TEL AVIV ABU DHABI MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006